

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

"Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it."—ISAIAH.

No. 40, Vol. XXVI.

Saturday, October 1, 1864.

Price One Penny.

REPORT OF A DISTRICT MEETING

HELD IN THE MUSIC HALL, STORE STREET, TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD, LONDON,
SUNDAY, AUGUST 7TH, 1864.

(Continued from page 613.)

In the evening the Conference met at 6.30. The meeting presented a very animated appearance; not only were the Saints present in great numbers, but many strangers were present, who listened with respectful attention to the proceedings. After singing and prayer,

President Cannon presented the Authorities of the Church, who were sustained in the usual manner. He then said—It has always been a pleasant time with me since I have been identified with this Work, but especially since I entered into the ministry. I can look back upon the days and years past with pleasure. I have taken great delight in bearing testimony to the inhabitants of these lands; yet, when I reflect upon my want of ability, I almost feel I would like to spend the time over again with my increased experience. It has been with much weakness, especially at times, that I have labored among you. But the Lord God has blessed me,

and I feel grateful. He has preserved me, and I feel a pleasure to labor here in his cause. Is it because I do not love my home that I linger with you in my feelings? No; I look forward with delight to enjoy the sweet society of friends and relatives there. But higher obligations rest upon me than those of home—the desire to bear witness of the Gospel, and the love of the brethren who have come to take charge of the British Mission. I should have felt honored to have labored with them. This is the first time any of the First Presidency have left home to labor in foreign lands. I feel that the Saints should feel particularly honored in receiving among them men who have the power and authority of God which they hold. This is the chief reason I should have liked to labor here longer, to labor under their Presidency. I told President Wells so. If these are my feelings, I am sure they are yours also.

There is one lesson that I rejoice to know the Saints in this country have learned, which is, that God has restored the Holy Priesthood to reveal unto them the whole course of the Gospel. I trust that they have so well learned it that they will yield implicit obedience to his servants. Did you ever know anyone who has thus obeyed the servants of God, who has not been blessed? Can you remember one single instance of this kind in which the Lord has failed to bestow his blessing? I cannot. I trust, then, you will go forth with more determination than ever to serve the Lord, will be more diligent in your duties, in reading the *STAR*, the *JOURNAL OF DISCOURSES*, and the various works the Lord has appointed for your instruction, because if you will do so, there is not a blessing you can desire that you shall not receive. "The path of duty is the path of safety." The Latter-day Saints have proved this—the condition of the United States prove it. To what a pinnacle of greatness they had attained when they would not listen to the servants of God, and they would not render obedience to the commandments of God; and we see the result! Now, we shall attain to the same greatness they might have attained to. I know that it sounds strange to the Gentiles that the poor, despised Latter-day Saints should attain to this prosperity. It sounds like presumption in me to say so; but it is a truth as apparent to me, as it will be in a day to come to those who witness its fulfilment, for there is the same authority upon the earth that existed in the days of Elijah, of Moses, of Melchisedek, of Peter, pre-eminent among his brethren. The same God to give wisdom—of the same heavenly origin. That authority was held by Joseph Smith; he received this heavenly wisdom, and he could have guided that nation; he could have delivered them from the fearful destruction which they are the subjects of now, and of which tidings come to us by every mail. That nation is experiencing now the effects of disobeying the divinely-inspired servants of God. Let me speak as one whose voice may never again reach you—let

me speak as a friend who desires your well-being—give heed to the counsel of the servants of God. But, say one, suppose I do not know they are His servants? Appeal to God. Ask him to enlighten your mind that you may discern the Truth. He will give you a witness, and soften your hearts so that you may receive their instructions. If you do not take this counsel and be guided by such counsel, sooner or later you will lose your standing among the Lord's people, but if you have tasted of the good Word of God, you will not lightly barter away the blessings you have received.

Brethren, sisters and friends, we are living in a great and important day. The Work is becoming what we said it would become years and years ago. At the time brother Pratt was speaking of, men could see this, and they could predict with certainty, for they knew what we see transpiring now. What we see is the fruition of their hopes. This is no cunningly devised fable; these things are true, and it was by the power of prophecy they were foreseen. By that power we are enlightened, and by that power all is brought together and welded into one mass. This has been accomplished not by the power of man, for man could not accomplish such a thing, but by the power of our Father and God. It has not been effected by delusion—delusion cannot bring about such things as are transpiring upon the earth. They knew at that time that the Gospel would be preached, and that the people would be gathered from these lands before a Latter-day Saints' Elder touched the shores of Europe. Everything has been, therefore, seen—the future and the complete development of the kingdom of God. When our enemies opposed us, when the mob like blood-hounds were on our track to destroy us, when everything seemed to conspire against us, then we knew these things, and our hearts were fixed, we knew the Work would triumph. The lapse of years before they should transpire did not deter those who were driven from steadily moving forward, neither do they to-day. Though the blood of friends and relatives was shed, even the precious blood of the servants of

God, still, under the influence of that light, they saw a bright future. And can that light be extinguished in us? No; there is no person can put it out—there is nothing but sin will destroy it. I rejoice exceedingly in these things. I know the Latter-day Saints are the happiest people upon earth. The rich may despise them—doubtless they do, as we see them so seldom among us. But, with all their poverty and with all their ignorance, for they are not perfect yet, God will exalt them. I am proud to be a Latter-day Saint—proud to know my destiny is associated with this people. But I do not feel like preaching, I feel more like bearing my testimony, because it will be the last time of my being in this city for sometime at least. I know God has restored the glorious Priesthood. But, says one, how did you get this knowledge? It came like the gentle shower, and it has increased continually. Evidence upon evidence has been given unto me. I know the Holy Ghost is received by men as it was anciently. I know that everything will be made known which is necessary for man to know to gain him salvation. God has opened the heavens. I have seen the sick healed, the blind receive their sight, and those left for dead restored to life. I, therefore, stand as a living witness before you. I bear solemn testimony that these things are verily true. I do not appeal to the Scriptures of truth, though I could do so with justice, but I stand as a swift witness that the gifts and blessings as anciently enjoyed are now among men. But, says one, is it "Mormonism" you mean? I call it the Gospel of Jesus Christ. If you will repent and be baptized, and have the hands of God's servants laid upon you, you will receive the Holy Ghost; and, if you are obedient to its teachings, it will increase upon you till you are filled with it from the crown of your head to the soles of your feet.

President Cannon then showed that the time is not far distant when the Latter-day Saints will be the only people who will have peace in their midst, but that the people of the world should not wait till then to embrace the Gospel. That no one should wait for

signs to convert them, as the evidences of the Truth, are sufficient for every earnest, honest person. Strange delusions will take possession of those who refuse to embrace the Gospel. Great signs, miracles and wonders will be wrought among men, and they will curse God and die. People in America are more unwilling to receive the Gospel now than ever. He concluded by showing that when the Gospel is presented to men, the power of evil will try them, that they may be proved. That, if they will be subject to the will of the Lord, power will be given unto them, so that they may be able to resist every temptation, until, at last, there will be no vulnerable point in their character. That the Priesthood being restored to the earth, as that increases, so will the power of Satan become greater, until man is ripe for destruction.

Elder Orson Pratt, sen., said, that it was with great satisfaction he had listened to the remarks of brother Cannon, who had delivered a faithful testimony, one given by the Spirit of the living God, of the truth of the Work; and one thing had strongly impressed itself upon his mind—namely, the very scenes exhibited before their eyes among the nations, as well as the things transpiring in America, were all predicted years before the Latter-day Saints set foot on foreign soil. Of this fact, he said, he could bear witness, having been connected with the Church almost from the commencement of its history. He knew of those predictions, for many of them were given in his presence. He alluded to a revelation given in 1831, as having been fulfilling from that time to this, but more particularly since 1833. He showed how the Saints were driven when they had laid out their capital in the purchase of homes; how they had, again and again, built up cities and had erected Temples, even in the midst of the persecutions of their enemies. A revelation had been given informing them of these things, but they could not understand until they had experienced them. He showed that the same spirit which was in the ancient Apostles, who could not believe that Jesus could be crucified and rise again,

and for which unbelief Peter was rebuked by the Lord, was in them; they had been led up to the spot of ground in Jackson county, and, it had been revealed that "that generation would not wholly pass away till a Temple should be built," and "that a cloud of glory should rest upon it," and they had overlooked, in a great measure, that the Lord had informed them that they had to pass through great tribulation. But, said he, have not these things greatly strengthened us? Instead of causing us to go drooping, we see the fulfilment of these predictions. Not one jot or tittle will fail to be accomplished which has been spoken by the great modern Prophet. Elder Pratt then read a revelation, or prophecy, on the present war in America, and made remarks upon it, showing those things which were already fulfilled—the rebellion in South Carolina, the rising of the Southern States against the Northern States, the marshalling already of 100,000 slaves, &c. The Prophet Joseph had given him the privilege of making a copy of that prophecy, and he had travelled through most of the Northern and some of the Southern States, bearing witness of the truth of that revelation. The politicians whom he met said he must be insane to believe that such things would come to pass. There might be a war of words, a few electioneering squabbles, but for him to say that there would be a war resulting in the death and misery of many souls, that is a "Mormon" humbug! What were my feelings? I that knew every jot and tittle would be fulfilled? I could wish that it had not been so. No; I will recall the thought, I will not harbor it. The purposes of God have to be accomplished. What His purposes are that Book (the Book of Mormon) unfolds. It says, when that Book shall be brought forth, if the people harden their hearts, it shall be to their utter overthrow. The days will come, just as sure as you are here, as sure as the Lord lives, that every soul that will not turn away from iniquity shall be utterly destroyed from the face of the American continent. Some of you do not believe it; I do not mean that the Latter-day Saints do not believe, but

some of you who are here. The day of the Lord's controversy has come, the day is near for the second advent of the Lord, and, before that day, the wicked shall be visited with many and sore judgments. The day will surely come that will destroy all their cities, all their strongholds. He then drew attention to a prophecy in which the cities of New York, Albany and Boston are mentioned, and in the same way that their houses will be left to them desolate—so will those other cities of America be destroyed. He spoke of the promise made by the Lord to Moses, "A Prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things, whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, that every soul which will not hear that Prophet shall be destroyed from among the people." He asked the question whether there had ever been a period when such a Prophet had arisen, of whom it could be said every soul who would not hear him was destroyed? and showed that the Book of Mormon contains the words of that Prophet, which will result in the destruction of those who refuse to receive them, and will not believe in the servants of God and the message which God has sent in this age unto them. That the judgments of the Almighty, as shown in the 34th chapter of Isaiah, are to be fulfilled in this day, that the consumption decreed will be accomplished, and that few men will be left. He therefore wanted them to listen to those words, for, alas, for the disobedient! Soon the last of the Latter-day Saints would be gathered from their midst, and famine, desolation and bloodshed would visit them.

X President Wells said there was something which had not been told them which was worthy of attention—namely, that the wicked bear rule on the earth, but that this is the Lord's world, and he is doing as he did in the days of Jesus, when the poor received the Gospel message which was rejected by the rich. Why did not the rich receive it? They were filled with wealth and pride. It is so now. They have no place for this Gospel, they are so full of the lust of riches.

Jesus said, "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven." The poor receive the servants of God, they flock from all nations to the standard of Zion, to a land which has been blessed for that purpose. There they are happy and contented. To the righteous that land is rich and choice above all other lands. It has been made so by the power of the Almighty. But those

Valleys are poor to those who are rich. That land has been dedicated to the use of the righteous, and this has been so manifestly done that those who will not work righteousness have no claim on it. He then gave some general advice to the Saints as to their faithfulness, and concluded with his blessings on the Priesthood and Saints.

ISAAC BULLOCK, District President.
JOSEPH BARFOOT, Clerk.

PERSECUTION.

BY ELDER MILES P. ROMNEY.

The Church of Jesus Christ has had, from its commencement until the present time, many trials and difficulties to contend with through the persecution of its enemies, who have striven to send abroad all descriptions of falsehood in regard to the people; until at present, many thousands have become filled with little prejudices against the people of God, so that they will not even listen to the principles that the chosen servants of God teach; and all this is caused by the misrepresentations of those who love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil. These same individuals, though they are in darkness, are well satisfied the principles of eternal Truth, as taught by the Elders, are unimpeachable. They know they are the same truths taught by Jesus and his Apostles, therefore they are well aware that were they to appeal to the Scriptures of Divine truth, they and their doctrines would be condemned; that the truths of the Gospel, as revealed through the Prophet Joseph, would shine forth with undiminished brightness; hence, they resort to other means than "the law and the testimony."

Many, now, wonder why it is that we are so despised. Many, likewise, will argue and conclude, that if we had the Truth we would not be so much despised by the great majority of mankind, and they will declare that they know our principles are false and

corrupt on account of our unpopularity. This kind of reasoning, in our estimation, is foolish, from the fact that Truth has always been despised by the majority, and those who dare declare they are converted to the Truth have been persecuted, and their names have been cast out as evil. If our principles are condemned because we are unpopular, we can by the same judgment condemn those of the Saints who have lived in former ages—condemn the old Prophets because they were unpopular. The same judgment would condemn our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, his Apostles and all who believed upon their words, because they were unpopular; their names were cast out as evil; they were persecuted even by the great majority who then lived upon the earth. Therefore, instead of looking upon our unpopularity as an argument against the Truth, we would be more wise in concluding that it is an evidence of the truth of our doctrines, because, from the earliest ages of the history of man, Truth and those who strictly adhere to its principles have been unpopular. Jesus knew the Truth would be despised, therefore, for the encouragement and consolation of his servants and Saints, he said, "Blessed are ye, when men shall persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad, for great is your reward in heaven." He thus, in these

words, not only told them that they would be despised, but also that they would be spoken of falsely; yet we are told to "rejoice, and be exceeding glad, for great is our reward in heaven."

It would be unreasonable for us to think, that after the world has lain in darkness for many centuries, when the people have been devoid of the Everlasting Gospel, and Satan has established himself firmly in the midst of the earth, that the kingdom of God could be established without a great and a mighty struggle, from this fact, "That truth is sharp and cutteth like a two-edged sword," and it strikes deep at the root of all man-made systems of religion. The Enemy of all righteousness beholds the angel spoken of by the Apostle John, restore the fulness of the Gospel to the Prophet Joseph, and trembles; he looks upon the millions of men who inhabit the earth; he beholds them bound with the iron bands of sin; he knows the time has come for the final struggle; that the hour is near when the truths of God will burst assunder the bonds of iniquity and sin, and when the kingdoms of this earth will become the kingdoms of our God. He beholds the Priesthood again conferred upon man by the legal authority from heaven. As he beholds these things, his eyes flash fire, his frame quivers and shakes with rage and madness. He calls his minions around him, and shows unto them events that are transpiring upon the earth; he sends them forth to oppose the progress of Truth; they first tempt the youthful Prophet, but the power of God enables him to resist the temptations of the Evil One. When they fail in this, they try stronger measures to resist the march of Truth; they instil evil into the hearts of men; professed ministers of the Gospel go forth and begin to persecute the servants of God; still God upholds and sustains his servants against the efforts of the Adversary; finally he beholds the Church of God organized upon the earth; it is composed of six members, and his rage is then unbounded. He beholds the power of God made manifest in the Church, the gifts and blessings are received by the believers,

they speak in tongues, they lay hands on the sick and they recover, the halt and the lame are made whole by the power of God. As he witnesses these things he rages, and he calls in a voice of thunder for his legions to prepare themselves for the coming struggle. They go forth in obedience to his commands, enlisting in their cause all who will give way to the seducing influences of evil. Men become instruments in their hands in opposing the Work of God; ministers from the pulpit begin to cry, Delusion! false prophet! false prophet! he is not fit to live—destroy him! destroy him!! These reverend divines do not once appeal to the Scriptures of Divine Truth in order to destroy this great delusion, but they stir up the people to anger, making them to persecute those who have received the Gospel. Thus the struggle commenced and continues, and yet, in spite of all these efforts, the Work spreads—thousands gather from the surrounding peoples. In Ohio, cities and a Temple are reared to the name of the great Jehovah. Then Satan marshalls all those who will listen to evil words and misrepresentations, and they meet with ill-feeling and persecution. Still the Saints are filled with faith, they know in whom they trust; then prayers ascend, and are heard by the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They settle themselves in Missouri, but still persecution continues; many of the servants of God are thrust into prison, and among them is the Prophet. Their inhuman persecutors, inspired by the Evil One, endeavor to feed them upon the flesh of their brethren who were slain, but the Lord reveals by his Spirit their great wickedness to the Prophet, and they are preserved and finally liberated, but still persecution continues. The Saints are driven *en masse* from their homes and their firesides, out into the blasts of a wild winter wind; they are exposed to the cruelty of their enemies; many are slain by the sword; those who are advanced in years fall by the wayside from sheer exhaustion, the joyous maiden is caused to mourn through the loss of a loved father or mother, who has fallen by the wayside, the strong hearted are caused to weep

when they behold the sufferings of their wives and children. Satan beholds these scenes with joy; yet God still blesses his people under these trying circumstances, and in the midst of all their wanderings they bear up under persecution, until we find them situated upon the banks of the Mississippi river, in the city of Nauvoo. Here they are again prospered—they rear a Temple to the name of the Most High. Satan again begins to rage; he beholds messengers of life and salvation on their way to Europe. God blesses these messengers; many are converted to the Truth; they begin to gather from England to the city of the Saints; the enemies of the Church of God again begin to persecute the Saints; they have long endeavored to destroy the Prophet of God, but could prove no charge against him, therefore, in open violation of earthly and heavenly laws, on the 27th of June, 1844, at five o'clock p.m., the Prophet and Patriarch of God suffered death in Carthage jail. The Saints lament, angels weep. The enemies of truth and righteousness shout with joy; they now suppose that the Work of God will become a thing of bygone days. But no, the Lord has declared that "His kingdom" should no more be thrown down. The mantle of Joseph falls upon Brigham, "The Lion of the Lord." The Saints are again driven from their homes; Brigham leads them to the Valleys of Utah. Through the blessings of God the barren deserts are caused to blossom as the rose; the kingdom rolls on with increasing velocity; thousands and thousands are gathering from the nations afar off to Zion every year.

In reviewing the history of the Church thus far, we can behold the wisdom, goodness and mercy of God

towards his people—he has truly been their friend and protector. What has all this persecution accomplished? Simply the purposes of God. We now behold the Church of God in the very location spoken of by the Prophet-Isaiah. He declared, "That in the last days the Mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the tops of the mountains, and exalted above the hills, and all nations shall flow unto it." The Saints, at the present time, are in the location described; and the Prophet Daniel also predicts, That the little stone (which represents the kingdom of God) should roll forth from the mountains until it should smite the toes of the image, (which represents the kingdoms of the world.) Thus we see that the enemies of this great Work have been the means, in the hands of the Lord, in bringing us to the very place where the Prophets beheld us many centuries ago. The Lord has said that his people should no more be driven from their homes; they are now in the "secret chambers of the Lord," and they are living in peace and safety, while their persecutors are suffering death and destruction. The judgments of the Almighty have overtaken the wicked; the American Republic has met with punishment for the rejection of the testimony of the servants of God, and the same awaits every other people who persecute the Saints of God and repent not of their sins, for thus the Lord has spoken through his servants. Then why not take warning by the history of the past? Cannot we behold the fulfilment of words that were spoken by inspired men eighteen hundred years ago? Then let us remember that

"Those who despise grow harder still;
Those who adhere, he turns their will:
And thus despisers sink to hell,
While those who heed in glory dwell."

HISTORY OF BRIGHAM YOUNG.

H. C. Kimball. (Continued from page 616.)

"The next Sunday, Elder Hyde and myself read the 13th chapter of 1st Corinthians and strongly urged upon the people the grace of charity which

is so highly spoken of in that chapter, and made some remarks on the proceedings of the Rev. Robert Aitken, who had abused us, and the Book of

Mormon so very much; in return for his railing we exhorted our people to pray that the Lord would soften his heart and open his eyes, that he might see it was 'hard to kick against the pricks.' This course had a very good effect, and that week we baptized fifty, a large number of whom were members of Mr. Aitken's church. Thus the Lord blessed us exceedingly, notwithstanding the railing and abuse of the priests, and all this worked together for our good and the advancement of the cause of truth, and the work of the Lord continued to roll forth with great power. Calls from all quarters to come and preach, were constantly sounding in our ears; and we labored both night and day, to teach the people. We had to speak in small and very crowded houses and to large assemblies in the open air; consequently, our lungs became very sore and our bodies worn down with fatigue. At length we obtained a commodious place to preach in, called "The Cock Pit;" we had to pay seven shillings sterling per week rent, and two shillings for lighting it with gas. It had been recently converted into a Temperance Hall.—When we leased it the area in the centre was occupied by the singers, and our pulpit was the place where the Judges formerly sat, who awarded the prizes at cock fights.

The temperance reformation in England commenced in Preston just previous to our arrival there, and it was often said by temperance men who joined the Church that that movement was a preparatory work or forerunner to the introduction of the Gospel; in most every place we went where there was a Temperance Hall we could get it to preach in, many believing that we made men temperate faster than they did; for as soon as any obeyed the Gospel they abandoned their excesses in drinking; and none of us drank any kind of spirits, porter nor small beer, nor even wine, neither did we drink tea, coffee or chocolate.

Our meeting was disturbed by some Methodist ministers. We got our hall licensed, and policemen proffered their services to keep the peace and protect us from any further disturbances. Brother Hyde and myself

made application to the quarter sessions and obtained licenses.

Although we had many persecutors, who would have rejoiced at our destruction and who felt determined to overthrow the Work of the Lord, yet there were many who were very friendly, who would have stood by us under all circumstances, and would not have been afraid to hazard their lives in our behalf.

We divided the Church into several Branches and ordained Priests and Teachers to preside over them. Thursday evening was appointed for prayer meetings to be held in different parts, and on Sundays for the whole Church to assemble in the Cock Pit, when the Sacrament was administered, and such instructions given, as were thought necessary, for their spiritual prosperity and advantage.

After having attended to this duty, I again went into the country, where I spent the principal part of my time; leaving Preston on Monday morning and returning on Saturday night.

Having mentioned my determination of going to Chatburn to several of my brethren they endeavored to dissuade me from going, informing me that there could be no prospect of success whatever, as several ministers of different denominations had endeavored in vain to raise churches in these places, this did not discourage me in the least I went in the name of Jesus Christ. My testimony was accompanied by the Spirit of the Lord and was received with joy, and these people who were represented as being so hard and obdurate, were melted down into tenderness and love, and the effect seemed to be general.

Told them, that being a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ I stood ready at all times to administer the ordinances of the Gospel. At the close of my discourse I felt some one pulling my coat and turning around, I was accosted with 'Master! Master! please will you baptize me,' 'and me,' 'and me,' exclaimed more than a dozen voices. Accordingly I went down into the water, and baptized twenty-five and was engaged in this duty, and conversing with the people until 1 o'clock. The next morning I returned to Downham, where I had preached the

evening previous to preaching in Chatburn and baptized between twenty-five and thirty in the course of the day.

Being absent from Preston five days, Brother Fielding and I baptized and confirmed about 110 persons, organized Branches in Downham, Chatburn, Waddington and Clitheroe—ordained several to the lesser Priesthood to preside; this was the first time the people in these villages ever heard our voices, or ever saw an American.

We held a general Conference in Preston on Christmas day, the Saints assembled in the Cock Pit. There were about three hundred Saints present. There were delegates from each Branch to represent the Branches around, which extended thirty miles. Brother Fielding was ordained an Elder, and several others were or-

daind to the lesser Priesthood to take charge of the Branches. The brethren were instructed on the principles of the Gospel and their several duties enjoined upon them, as Saints of the Most High. We confirmed fourteen and blessed about one hundred children.

At this Conference the Word of Wisdom was first publicly taught in that country; having heretofore taught it more by example than precept and from my own observation afterwards, I am happy to state, that it was almost universally observed by the brethren.

I accompanied brother Hyde to Longton, where he had preached before, some were believing but none had been baptized. I preached a plain and simple discourse on the first principles of the Gospel, and after meeting baptized twenty-five."

(To be continued.)

710

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1864.

THE RESTORATION OF THE GOSPEL.

THE restoration of the holy and eternal Priesthood of Almighty God opens up a communication between the heavens and the earth; the Lord again communes with his children, his servants, his Prophets, and the revelations of the Lord are given for the guidance of the people. The authority of the Holy Priesthood, with Apostles, Prophets, Teachers, miracles, healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues and all the organizations of the Church and kingdom of God upon the earth; with angels and ministering spirits, the Lord's House and the washings and anointings and the holy endowments thereof; the Holy Spirit with its gifts, blessings and powers, all, all, being restored. Who would not believe in God, our heavenly Father, and Jesus Christ whom he hath sent, and angels and holy beings? Who would not be a Latter-day Saint and give God the glory? Is it any wonder that devils rage and the wicked howl? Let the Saints rejoice and remember that it is the fool who hath said in his heart, "there is no God;" and so prepare to get up out of Babylon before the righteous and just indignation of the Almighty shall be poured out upon the wicked and ungodly nations, and the way hedged up by

reason thereof, for surely the Lord will plead by his sore judgments, "but upon Mount Zion shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness, and the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions."

THE ANGELS.

[Thinking that the following article published in the TIMES AND SEASONS of March 1st, 1845, would prove interesting to the Saints, we insert it for their edification.—ED.]

In the thirteenth chapter of Matthew is some of the wonderful wisdom of Jesus Christ, put forth in parables: and with all the rest, this question and answer:—

"Jesus saith unto them, Have ye understood all these things? They say unto him, Yea, Lord.

Then said he unto them. Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old."

This like all the revelations of God, is a specimen of "Mormonism:" to bring forth things *new and old*. But what can be brought forth concerning the angels that will interest the Saint; leaving the world to enjoy a belief that angels have entirely quit the earth, and that a man sins to talk about seeing them? Why, in the first place, we will see how many kinds of angels there are, and what their duties are before the Lord.

According to the best understanding we have of the Scriptures, there are three, perhaps four, kinds of angels:—the archangels of which Paul and Jude make mention, first in order or highest in authority; the angels, which are resurrected bodies, like those mentioned in the eighteenth chapter of Genesis, who ate and drank with Abraham, and also with Lot: and the angels which are ministering spirits; and it may be a matter of investigation to determine whether this third class of spiritual beings, do not constitute two distinct races in the heavenly world.

The Psalmist said that man was created a little lower than the angels, and this taken in connection with the idea of Paul and the Psalmist, (if rightly translated) "who maketh or sendeth his ministering spirits, Angels, (or messengers) a flame of fire, or inflames of fire," would give us a fourth grade of angels: and a true "Mormon" would go on to prove the case still further, on this wise: that Jesus Christ did the same work that his Father had done: and that Christ's disciples did the same work that he had done: and as he went in the spirit before his resurrection, during the three days that his body lay in the sepulchre, to preach to the spirits in prison, so also do and will his disciples in all ages of the world since he opened the door of the resurrection. Again, John says "Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do: because I go unto my Father."

What "greater work," as Jesus had raised the dead, could his disciples do, unless, after death, as ministering spirits, they should minister to the spirits in prison, and so save *the dead*? If any are wise let them say.

But the greatest matter of mystery concerning angels, is, that they or some of them at least, live by *eating*. The two angels that visited Lot, in Sodom, partook of a feast; and Paul says: "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers:

for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." And also, it is written in the Psalms, that "man did eat angels' food."

From these facts, it is evident that the angels who minister to men in the flesh, are resurrected beings, so that flesh administers to flesh; and spirits to spirits: this was the case with John when he said:

"And I fell at his feet to worship him. and he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus; worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

This angel might have been good old Daniel, who had risen with Jesus, as "one of thy brethren the prophets."

The angels are our watchmen, for Satan said to Jesus: "He will give his angels charge concerning thee, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone at any time." It would seem from a careful perusal of the Scriptures, that the angels, while God has Saints upon the earth, stay in this lower world to ward off evil: for the prophet Isaiah has left this testimony on the subject:—

"I will mention the loving kindnesses of the Lord, and the praises of the Lord, according to all that the Lord hath bestowed on us, and the great goodness toward the house of Israel, which he hath bestowed on them according to his mercies, and according to the multitude of his loving-kindnesses.

For he said, Surely they are my people, children that will not lie: so he was their Savior.

In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old."

The angels that have gone forth at sundry times to execute the decrees of God, fully substantiate this fact: Abraham, Hager, Jacob, Balaam, Joshua, Gideon, together with the enemies of the Lord are the witnesses who knew the power and offices of angels on earth.

But lest we take up too much time on the resurrected bodies, who go and come at the bidding of Him who was, and is, and is to come, we will change the theme to the thoughts and witnesses of the heart.

The action of the angels, or messengers of God upon our minds, so that the heart can conceive things past, present, and to come, and revelations from the eternal world, is, among a majority of mankind, a greater mystery than all the secrets of philosophy, literature, superstition, and bigotry, put together: though some men try to deny it, and some to explain away the meaning; still there is so much testimony in the Bible, and among a respectable portion of the world, that one might as well undertake to throw the water out of this world into the moon with a tea spoon, as to do away the supervision of angels upon the human mind.

The first account that comes to our mind now is, when Jacob was journeying; "And he dreamed, and, behold, a ladder set upon the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and, behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it."

The next case we notice is relative to Pharaoh and Egypt, which Joseph interpreted and the interpretation was sure. Now, unless there had been an understanding between the angel of Pharaoh, and the angel of Joseph, how could the interpretation have been known? Or in the case of Nebuchadnezzar when he dreamed of the great image, which fled from his mind, how could

Daniel not only have brought the *iwage*, but the meaning with it? Daniel said there was a God in heaven that revealed secrets, but God does not often leave heaven to give a man a dream and the interpretation.

There is nothing in the Bible which comes nearer the fact, or more properly, the truth of the matter, than when the wise men came to worship Jesus. Matthew says :

"And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy him."

The wise men were warned in a *dream* and the angel of the Lord warned Joseph in a *dream*; and the fact is, spirit ministers to spirit, and *so we dream revelations*, because the angels inform our spirits what to dream; and the eyes of our understandings see it: and the ears of our perception conceive; and lo, there is a line of communication from heaven to earth!

And this is not all; who is it that carries the Saints' sins to judgment beforehand? Did not Paul write:

"Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment: and some men they follow after.

Likewise also the good works of some are manifest beforehand, and they that are otherwise cannot be hid."

It is the "divinity," or spirit of God, within us, that performs this duty.

"For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

And there are three that bear witness in earth, the spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one."

No wonder, then, that our sins go to judgment beforehand: and no wonder that man gives an account of his own stewardship through life, for this is the sum and substance of the matter: our blood, which is our life, (and wo to the man that sheds it by murder!) and our spirit, which is eternal; and the water wherein we are baptized, all testify to God of our acts in the flesh; and "the angels of our presence" are the messengers to report the matters: so we are chastened accordingly.—The sins of the wicked follow after, and verily they have their reward.

The angels go in the authority of God. This is manifest from the account of Jacob's wrestling with God:

"And Jacob was left alone: and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day."

But when he prevailed not, he inquired the name of "the man," and got no answer: so he called the name of the place *Penay ale*, "face of God." The next and most prominent example is, that where Joshua learned the fate of Jericho before it fell by blowing "ram horns."

"And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, there stood a man over against him, with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?

And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the Lord am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant?

And the captain of the Lord's host said unto Joshua, loose thy shoe from off thy foot ; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so."

No doubt the "captain of the Lord's host" told Joshua the plan of taking Jericho and its utter destruction. To verify this we quote the first verse of John's Revelation on the Isle of Patmos :

"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass ; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John."

Perhaps it may be said that many persons dream not at all : to which we reply, so it is, and many people do not believe in God, man, nor the Devil ; but the time is at hand when the Saints will know better and do better :

"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh ; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions :

And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit."

But, without going into a particular detail of the offices and duties of the different grades of angels, let us close by saying that the angels gather the elect, and pluck out all that offends. They are the police of heaven and report whatever transpires on earth, and carry the petitions and supplications of men, women and children to the mansions of remembrance, where they are kept as tokens of obedience by the sanctified, in "golden vials" labelled "*the prayers of the saints.*"

ABSTRACT OF CORRESPONDENCE.

SANDWICH ISLANDS.—Elder Thomas Taylor has kindly given into our hands a letter received by him from Elder Joseph F. Smith, now on a mission to the Sandwich Islands, and, as there are many of the readers of the *STAR* who are personally acquainted with and interested in Elder Smith, independent of the general interest we all feel in the spread of the Work of God, we take the liberty of making a brief abstract of its contents. The letter is dated Honolulu, Oahu, July 6th, 1864 :—

"The kind feelings and spirit breathed in your letter was most refreshing, and bore me back, on the light wings of memory, to similar kind letters and the pleasant scenes of "long ago" in good "old England." Long shall I remember the blessed associations with dear brethren and kind friends, the sweet influences of the good Spirit, and the many happy times I experienced while in that country. It is a pleasure to labor where the fruits of good precept and example may be seen to follow, as is the case to a greater extent, perhaps, in England, than in any other country except our home. I recollect with pleasure many kind friends and good Saints who are still there. Our circumstances here at present are not very flattering, and we have but little to encourage us. The natives seem almost indifferent about religion and are very indolent. The climate of these Islands is delightful, and the soil is rich and fertile, but the natives are fast dwindling away, foreigners are buying up the land, and fine plantations have sprung into existence within the last few years. Yet there are thousands of acres of land, cultivated when the population was more numerous, as well adapted now as then for raising potatoes, corn, &c., lying idle. The planters are sending to China and other parts for laborers, as it seems to be a settled fact with them that the natives will not work, and

would rather go hungry than cultivate the soil. It is believed that the day is not far distant when the Government will fall entirely into the hands of the whites, for the aborigines, it is thought, will soon become extinct. The natives have all but eight families of them left Gibson, but he still holds the land that was bought for a gathering place, also all the property he collected from the native Saints, refusing to give up one atom of it. They have entered a complaint to the Government of the treatment they experienced at his hands, but Government is involved in difficulties that absorb its whole attention, which may yet terminate or lead to serious trouble. The present king elect refuses to sign the Constitution on the ground that it limits his power too much. To-morrow is the day appointed by him for the meeting of a Convention to consider upon measures to alter the Constitution so as to settle the pending difficulties. Republican principles are so strong, that it is not likely that the king's ambition will be gratified, without, at least, a fierce struggle. Brothers John R. Young and Benjamin Cluff arrived here on the 10th of June last.")

C O R R E S P O N D E N C E .

ENGLAND.

CHELTEMHAM CONFERENCE.

Cheltenham, Sep. 14, 1864.

President Wells.

Dear Brother, — Having time, I write these few lines to you to give you an idea of our present condition and future prospects in this portion of the vineyard. As a general thing a good feeling prevails among the Saints in this Conference. Many of them are very faithful in keeping the commandments of God, therefore they are filled with knowledge and intelligence, and the Spirit of the Lord is an inmate of their homes and habitations. We have a few who do not first "Seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness," the consequence is that their minds are more or less in darkness; but these, I am happy to say, are greatly in the minority.

Since the District Conference held in Cheltenham, we have baptized six persons, and others have declared their intention of joining themselves with the Church ere long. We have already baptized more than emigrated last spring. Future prospects are encouraging to the faithful. We desire to do good; we wish to be the means in the hands of God in assisting to bring about his purposes upon the earth; we desire to see man freed from the rule of wicked and corrupt rulers, that they may enjoy the light

of eternal truth; that they may understand why they were placed here on earth; that they may know their origin and their future destiny. The Gospel of Jesus reveals all truth to man, and it will revolutionize the world. The wicked will decrease, while the righteous will increase. O God, hasten on thy Work; may thy purposes be fulfilled. Bless thy servants with great and mighty power, may they learn thy mind and will continually, and may we be faithful in discharging our duties.

It is almost needless for me to say that the visit of yourself and the brethren who accompanied you, was very much appreciated both by Elders and Saints, and I hope we will show that we appreciated it by our future good works.

Financially we are improving, though slowly. I think we have nearly succeeded in paying off the book debt. It is my desire to be united with brother John G. Holman in striving to become free from debt, and in disseminating the principles of Truth abroad among our fellows.

I will close my letter praying that the Lord may give unto you health and strength and his Holy Spirit continually, also, that he will bless your associate, brother Brigham, jun., with like blessings. With kind love, in which brother John L. Dolten joins,

I remain your brother in the Gospel of Jesus,

MILES P. ROMNEY.

SWISS, ITALIAN AND GERMAN MISSION.

Geneva, Sept. 13, 1864.

President Wells.

Dear Brother.—Your welcome and cheering letter of August 27th came duly to hand, and I now embrace the afforded opportunity of again writing a few lines on the affairs of the Swiss Mission. It will be remembered that the Minister Plenipotentiary in London refused brother Guglielmo an American pass on the grounds that he was an Italian citizen. When he came here I set to work to procure him one. I visited the Hon. Charles H. Upton, American Consul in Geneva, and then, by his advice and the permission of using his influence, I wrote to Mr. Fogg, Minister Resident in Berne, on the subject. He answered me favorably, so much so that I sent brother G. to Berne, and the matter was favorably settled by Mr. Fogg giving him the desired pass. Brother G. returned from Berne on the 6th, and on the 8th departed for Piedmont, where he arrived all right on the 9th, and I hope he will soon be able to speak to them in his native tongue, as he is very apt in picking up anything of the kind by ear. Brother Spencer is exerting every nerve at his French lessons, and I bear him company part of the time.

The last I heard from brother Nebeker was, that he intended to visit the few Saints in Canton Gränbjöden, the most hostile district in this Mission, and he will be the first Elder from Zion who ever set foot there. By the last letter from him I learned, that according to his best information brother Müller, a native Elder, has again been arrested, (for the third or fourth time since last April,) and is either in prison or has been transported to Germany. I am very anxious about it, as two weeks have passed and I have no tidings from him. My impression is that he is in prison, or he would write to me, but I hope it may turn out for the good of the Cause.

Brother Hill has been in rather

poor health this summer, and is now quite under the weather. I am happy to say my health is rapidly improving. I feel well in my labors, and the constant and earnest prayer of my heart is, that God will grant me power to bring this dark and deeply benighted people to a knowledge of the principles of salvation, and raise them from their sunken depths of degradation to the condition which God intended for them provided they would serve him.

I close, praying God to bless you continually,

W. W. RITER.

SCANDINAVIAN MISSION.

Copenhagen, Sept. 17, 1864.

President Wells.

Dear brother,—Since my last communication I have visited and attended Conference meetings in Sweden in the following places: Malmö, Scona, the 28th ult., Norrköping the 8th inst., Stockholm the 11th, and Gottenborg the 13th inst., I met with the warmest reception from the Saints, found them alive to their religion; and they were made glad by hearing of the prosperity of Zion. I did my best to comfort and encourage them to continue in well doing and to be prepared for the coming events. Several strangers attended our meetings in the different places, listening attentively to my testimony and a peaceful spirit prevailed. Brother George W. Gee accompanied me to Stockholm, I left him there, in order that he may learn the Swedish tongue correctly, and I gave him the Pastoral charge of the Stockholm and Srendswall Conferences. Brother John Swenson is laboring faithfully in Sweden; and I believe he and brother Gee together will do a good work in those parts.

Next week I intend to leave for Christiania, Norway, and there meet with brothers Sprague and George M. Brown, and hold a Conference with the Saints the 24th and 25th.

In October my travels will be in the Conferences of Jutland, to comfort and cheer up the Saints; using the present peaceable time to the best advantage for the promotion of the kingdom of God. I felt it necessary to improve the time I could spare,